

Growth – Part V

Strong Roots

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Growth: Outline

➤ Part I – Introduction

➤ *What is a biblical model for growth?*

➤ Part II – Purpose

➤ *What is the biblical purpose for growth?*

➤ Part III – Hindrances to Growth (Parable of soils)

➤ *What causes “failure to thrive”?*

➤ Part IV – Good Ground (Parable of soils)

➤ *Observed: Hears word → Receives word → Bears Fruit*

➤ Part V – Strong Roots

Biblical Model of Growth

Psalm 1:1-4 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away.



- Righteous are like a tree; strong, growing, rooted
- Planted next to water, the life giving stream of the Holy Spirit flows out(John 7:38)

Reminder of the Goal

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can



Parable of the Soils

Mark 4:3-20

- Seed received differently by different types of soil
 - **Wayside**, but birds came quickly and ate it
 - **Stony Ground**, not much depth of earth
 - **Thorny Ground**, choked out by thorns
 - **Good Ground**, grew and produced a crop
- Jesus using a metaphor to illustrate how people react upon hearing the truth
 - **Wayside** – hard heart, no penetration, word is removed
 - **Stony** – Received with gladness at first, but unwilling to yield, growth is limited
 - **Thorny** – Received and growing, but did not guard against worldliness, growth is stifled
 - **Good** – Soft heart, ready to obey, healthy growth

Stony Ground = No Depth = No Root

Mark 4:5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

- Soil depth crucial for moisture storage
- Shallow roots can not withstand hot weather (vs. 17 persecution or tribulation)
- Healthy root system is essential to:
 - Endure Persecution
 - Support Growth



Importance of Good Roots

- **Rom 11:16**...and if the root is holy, so are the branches.
- **Jer 17:7** "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, And whose hope is the LORD. 8 For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.
- **Prov 12:3** A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.
- **Prov 12:12** The wicked covet the catch of evil men, But the root of the righteous yields fruit.
- **Isa 37:31** (same as 2 Kings 19:30) And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward.

Rooted...Grounded! – Key Points

Eph 3:14 For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height 19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

1. Pray that he would grant (vs 14 & 16)
2. Strengthening of Holy Spirit (16), Christ dwell through Faith (17)
 - a) Results in being Rooted & Grounded in Love (17)

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3. Leading to Comprehending (18), Knowing (19), Filling (19), Empowering (20)
4. Purpose? To Him be GLORY! (vs 21)

Rooted in Faith

Col 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- Faith in Christ → grounded (foundation) and steadfast (settled, immovable)

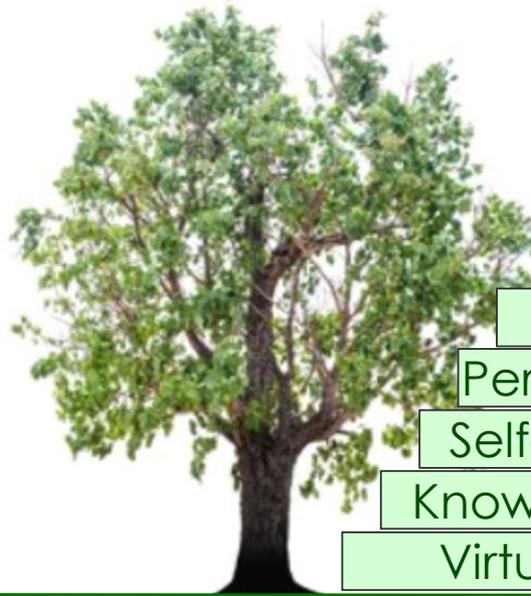
Col 2:5 For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

- Faith is the root system of the Christian

Built on a Foundation of Faith...

2 Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 5 But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, 6 to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, 7 to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. 8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

Rooted in Faith Fed by Christ



2 Pet 1:8 For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Roots of Faith

Rooted & Grounded in Love (Eph 3:17)

Rooted & Ground in Christ (Col 2:7)

Partakers of His Divine Power/Nature (2 Pet 1:3-4)

Jesus the Living Water (John 4:10-14)

Power of God (1 Cor 2:5)

Testing of Your Faith

- ▶ **1 Pet 1:6** In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,
- ▶ **James 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.
- ▶ **1 Pet 5:8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. 9 Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.
 - ▶ The testing of our faith makes us stronger
 - ▶ Roots of faith are forced to go deeper and wider

Faith Building

- ▶ **Jude 1:20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
 - ▶ How to build our Faith?
 - ▶ Pattern of scripture – Pray for more faith!
- ▶ **Luke 17:5** And the apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith."
- ▶ **Mar 9:24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"
- ▶ **Luke 22:31** And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren."

Faith Building

- ▶ PRAY for more faith!
- ▶ Explore Creation Science
- ▶ Study History
- ▶ Memorize Heb 11
- ▶ Get to know God through time spent with Him
- ▶ Keep a prayer journal (record answered prayers!)
- ▶ Praise and worship

Summary

- Good Soil, Good Roots → Good Fruits
- Roots are critical to the tree's ability to survive and thrive
- Roots absorb moisture and nutrients from the ground and make them available to the tree for production
- FAITH is the root system of the Christian
 - Salvation by grace through faith (Rom 5:2)
 - Endure persecution
 - Endure temptation
 - Provides access to God's divine power
 - Forms the foundation for the other graces to abound
 - Supports fruit production
 - Results in Glory to God!